



4 Adverse Weather Conditions

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Why is driving in adverse weather so dangerous?

- Rain, snow, and ice make it more difficult to start, stop, or turn.
- Even small amounts of precipitation make roads slippery. “Black ice”—patches of road that look wet but are actually icy—can be especially dangerous.
- On wet roads, maneuvers taken at normal “dry pavement” speeds can throw the vehicle out of control.
- Rain, fog, and sun glare make it more difficult to see, detect hazards, and be seen by other drivers.
- In all adverse weather conditions, safe following and stopping distances increase dramatically.

Parents’ comments on adverse weather conditions...

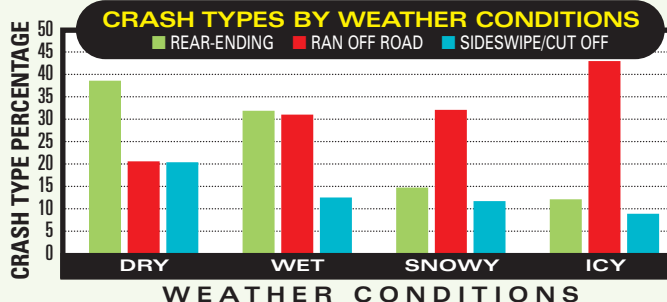
“She has been taught to handle normal driving situations, but I still have concerns about her driving at night or in bad weather, because she has little experience in those situations.”—Carlos G., New Haven

“I make it a point to go out with Jerry driving, just the two of us, to practice. We do it a couple of times a week, and he gets experience with whatever he needs to work on—bad weather, traffic, highways, night conditions, and so on. We try to do it just like Checkpoints Newsletter 1 said. I’m seeing real improvement—and besides, it gives us some ‘quality time’ together, and we get a bunch of errands done.”—Rose M., Hartford

BEFORE DRIVING UNSUPERVISED IN ADVERSE WEATHER, TEENS SHOULD HAVE SEVERAL MONTHS OF EXPERIENCE OF DRIVING IN FAIR WEATHER CONDITIONS AND EXTENSIVE SUPERVISED PRACTICE IN ADVERSE CONDITIONS.

DID YOU KNOW?

- ✓ Teens drive less than adults do in bad weather, but teens have more crashes per mile driven in bad weather.
- ✓ Drivers under 21 years of age are more likely than other age groups to be involved in the “ran off road” crash type. This crash type is more frequent during wet, snowy, or icy conditions.



CHECKPOINTS recommends increasing privileges in steps, or “Checkpoints”

UNSUPERVISED DRIVING PRIVILEGES				
WEATHER	CHECKPOINT 1	CHECKPOINT 2	CHECKPOINT 3	CHECKPOINT 4
Daytime	Dry	Dry, light rain	Moderate	Most
Nighttime		Dry	Dry, light rain	Moderate
RECOMMENDED TIME IN EFFECT	FIRST 1-3 MONTHS AFTER LICENSURE	NEXT 1-3 MONTHS	NEXT 3-6 MONTHS	NEXT 3-6 MONTHS

When teens are first licensed, parents and teens should continue practice driving together and set strict limits on adverse weather conditions. Then, as teens gain experience and demonstrate greater competence and responsibility, gradually increase privileges. It makes the limits on unsupervised driving easier for everybody to understand and manage when you review performance and adjust limits in regular steps, or “Checkpoints.”



SET PRIVILEGES AND RULES FOR ADVERSE WEATHER CONDITIONS!

AS A FAMILY, YOU CAN HELP REDUCE TEEN DRIVING RISK BY DOING THE FOLLOWING:

1 Talk about the dangers related to driving in adverse weather conditions (*see front page*).

2 Decide the following for unsupervised teen driving when first licensed:

- Weather privilege (*recommended: dry weather only*): _____
- Exceptions (*recommended: school or work only*): _____
- Length of time this driving privilege will be in effect (*recommended: 1-3 months*): _____

3 Set the following rules related to unsupervised teen driving in adverse weather:

- Do not put yourself or others at increased risk by making unnecessary trips in adverse weather.
- Check in with a parent every time you drive. Tell parent where you are going, who will be the passengers, and when you will return.
- Call home if you cannot get home safely. Parent will arrange a safe ride home.
- Other: _____

4 Set possible consequences for breaking driving rules, for example:

- Teen drove to a friend's house in heavy rain without permission.
 - ☐ Lose driving privileges for _____ days/weeks/months.
 - ☐ Other: _____

5 When the first “Checkpoint” period is up, plan to increase the unsupervised weather driving privilege if teen:

- Follows driving rules and privileges related to adverse weather.
- Advances in driving skills and judgment.
- Rarely loses driving privileges.